After an undefeated regular season, the football team’s playoff run came to an end November 25 in a seven point loss to Crest High School. Crest running back and University of Florida commit Rhaheim Ledbetter had two long touchdown runs, and in the end turnovers and penalties were too much for the Cougars to overcome.

Although the team came up short of a state championship, the Cougars still put together a highly successful season. Undefeated in the regular season, they smashed their competition in the first three playoff games by a combined 75 points. This year’s squad also defeated Country Day in the all-important Cook Cup game, giving Catholic bragging rights for another year.

“We fought every Friday no matter what. Also we kept the cup which is always good thing, but in the end it was a heart breaking loss,” said senior offensive lineman Murphy Swancy.

This season saw one of Catholic’s most powerful rushing attacks in a while, with senior David Herlocker, junior Alex Sabates, and sophomore Elijah Hood all rushing for over 800 yards on the year. The offensive line of Swancy, Chase Arnold, Collin Porter, Joe Hurney, Ryan Barkley, Joe Wolljung, and Mark Harrell was crucial to the team’s success running the football.

“I think the o-line was solid this year because we were the biggest line Catholic has had in a long time and we put a lot of hard work into this season. Lifting all summer, coming to workouts, and watching film with our o-line coach after practice every Tuesday to see where we messed up and how we could improve helped us a lot,” said Swancy.

The team had a strong group of seniors, some have committed to play football in college, including tight end Mark Harrell, to Notre Dame, and linebacker Matt Cincotta, to Marshall University. For those seniors who won’t be putting on the pads again next fall however, this season was one to savor.

“What I'm going to miss about high school football is the privilege to put on my helmet, jersey, and shoulder pads and go out in front of all the fans and play football under the lights. There’s nothing like playing at Catholic,” said Swancy.

Offensive linemen Arnold, Hurney, Barkley, and Porter will return next year, as will running backs Alex Sabates and Elijah Hood, so the outlook for next season’s offense is bright. James Choulas and Tafon Mainsah were impact players on defense this year who will also be returning for next season.

Though the Crest game was a tough one, it gave the Cougar faithful one last chance to show their appreciation for the team, which will be remembered for its toughness and tenacity.

“I want to thank all the seniors for a great season and for the hard work we all put in this year. Also, I want to wish the juniors and sophomores, especially my o-line, the best of luck next year and remember to protect the cup no matter what,” Swancy said.